

REMARKS

Forty-three claims were originally filed in the present Application. Claims 1-43 currently stand rejected. Claims 1, 20, 21, and 40 are amended, and claims 5, 19, 25, and 39 are canceled herein. Reconsideration of the Application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-11, 21-31, and 41-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,479,206 to Ueno et al. (hereafter Ueno). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

“For a prior art reference to anticipate in terms of 35 U.S.C. §102, every element of the claimed invention must be *identically* shown in a single reference.” *Diversitech Corp. v. Century Steps, Inc.*, 7 USPQ2d 1315, 1317 (CAFC 1988). The Applicants submit that Ueno fails to identically teach every element of the claims, and therefore does not anticipate the present invention.

Regarding the Examiner’s rejection of independent claims 1 and 21, Applicants respond to the Examiner’s §102 rejection as if applied to amended independent claims 1 and 21 which are amended to recite “*said peripheral device being implemented with a minimal configuration to reduce manufacturing costs of said peripheral device*” and “*said control device being implemented as a camera device that includes sufficient computing capabilities to effectively process, store, and manage said information instead of utilizing said peripheral device to process, store, and*”

manage said information,” which are limitations that are not taught or suggested either by the cited references, or by the Examiner’s citations thereto. More specifically, Applicants submit that Ueno fails to teach implementing the peripheral device with a minimal configuration to reduce manufacturing costs. Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments are supported by claims 5, 19, 20, 25, 39 and 40, as originally filed, and therefore do not necessitate a new search.

With regard to claim 43, “means-plus-function” language is utilized to recite elements and functionality similar to those recited in claims 1 and 21 which are further discussed below. Applicants therefore incorporate those remarks by reference with regard to claim 43. In addition, the Courts have frequently held that “means-plus-function” language, such as that of claim 43, should be construed in light of the Specification. More specifically, means-plus-function claim elements should be *construed to cover the corresponding structure, material or acts described in the specification*, and equivalents thereof. Applicants respectfully submit that, in light of the substantial differences between the teachings of Ueno and Applicants’ invention as disclosed in the Specification, claim 43 is therefore not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Ueno.

Regarding the Examiner’s rejection of dependent claims 2-4, 6-11, 22-24, 26-31, and 41, for at least the reasons that these claims are directly or indirectly dependent from respective independent claims whose limitations are not identically taught or suggested, the limitations of these dependent claims, when viewed through or in combination with the limitations of the respective independent claims, are also not identically taught or suggested. Applicants

therefore respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of dependent claims 2-4, 6-11, 22-24, 26-31, and 41 so that these claims may issue in a timely manner.

Because a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that every claimed limitation be *identically* taught by a cited reference, and because the Examiner fails to cite Ueno to identically teach or suggest the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-11, 21-31, and 41-43, so that these claims may issue in a timely manner.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 19-20, and 39-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,424,369 to Adair et al. (hereafter Adair). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

“For a prior art reference to anticipate in terms of 35 U.S.C. §102, every element of the claimed invention must be *identically* shown in a single reference.” *Diversitech Corp. v. Century Steps, Inc.*, 7 USPQ2d 1315, 1317 (CAFC 1988). The Applicants submit that Adair fails to identically teach every element of the claims, and therefore does not anticipate the present invention.

Regarding the Examiner’s rejection of independent claim 1, Applicants respond to the Examiner’s §102 rejection as if applied to amended independent claim 1 which is amended to recite “*said peripheral device being implemented with a minimal configuration to reduce manufacturing costs of said peripheral device*” and “*said control device being implemented as a camera device that includes sufficient*

computing capabilities to effectively process, store, and manage said information instead of utilizing said peripheral device to process, store, and manage said information,” which are limitations that are not taught or suggested either by the cited references, or by the Examiner’s citations thereto. More specifically, Applicants submit that Adair teaches that the peripheral device, and not the control device, is implemented as a camera. Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments are supported by claims 5, 19, 20, 25, 39 and 40, as originally filed, and therefore do not necessitate a new search.

Regarding the Examiner’s rejection of dependent claims 19-20 and 39-40, for at least the reasons that these claims are directly or indirectly dependent from respective independent claims whose limitations are not identically taught or suggested, the limitations of these dependent claims, when viewed through or in combination with the limitations of the respective independent claims, are also not identically taught or suggested. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of dependent claims 19-20 and 39-40 so that these claims may issue in a timely manner.

Because a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that every claimed limitation be *identically* taught by a cited reference, and because the Examiner fails to cite Adair to identically teach or suggest the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 19-20 and 39-40 so that these claims may issue in a timely manner.

35 U.S.C. § 103

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 12-13 and 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueno. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Applicants maintain that the Examiner has failed to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which requires that three basic criteria must be met, as set forth in M.P.E.P. §2142:

"First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations."

The initial burden is therefore on the Examiner to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of dependent claims 12-13 and 32-33, for at least the reasons that these claims are directly or indirectly dependent from respective independent claims whose limitations are not identically taught or suggested, the limitations of these dependent claims, when viewed through or in combination with the limitations of the respective independent claims, are also not identically taught or suggested. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of dependent claims 12-13 and 32-33 so that these claims may issue in a timely manner.

Furthermore, in the rejections of claims 12 and 32, the Examiner concedes that Ueno “doesn’t explicitly teach that it is economically designed, that does not include substantial data manipulation capabilities.” However, the Examiner fails to provide any addition references to support the rejections of claims 12 and 32. It appears that the Examiner is utilizing Official Notice without expressly stating so. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to cite specific references in support of these rejections, and failing to do so, to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 12 and 32 so that these claims may issue in a timely manner.

Furthermore, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit has held that “obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive supporting the combination.” In re Geiger, 815 F.2d 686, 688, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1276, 1278 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Applicants submit that there is no teaching of a combination that would result in Applicant’s invention, and therefore the obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C §103 is not proper.

Applicants submit that the cited references, in combination with the Official Notice, do not suggest a combination that would result in Applicants’ invention, and therefore the obviousness rejections under 35 U.S.C §103 are improper. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to cite references in support of the Official Notice, and to also indicate where an explicit teaching to combine the cited reference may be found.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the Applicants submit that claims 12-13 and 32-33 are not unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Ueno, and that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are thus improper. The Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 12-13 and 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 14-15, 17-18, 34-35, and 37-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ueno in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,714,238 to Urisaka et al. (hereafter Urisaka). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Applicant maintains that the Examiner has failed to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). As discussed above, for a valid *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the prior art references when combined must teach or suggest all the claim limitations." The initial burden is on the Examiner to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion that modification of the device of Ueno according to the teachings of Urisaka would produce the claimed invention. Applicants submit that Ueno in combination with Urisaka fail to teach a substantial number of the claimed elements of the present invention. Furthermore, Applicants also submit that neither Ueno nor Urisaka contain teachings for combining the cited references to produce the Applicants' claimed

invention. The Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the obviousness rejections under 35 U.S.C §103 are improper.

Further regarding the Examiner's rejection of dependent claims 14-15, 17-18, 34-35, and 37-38, for at least the reasons that these claims are directly or indirectly dependent from respective independent claims whose limitations are not identically taught or suggested, the limitations of these dependent claims, when viewed through or in combination with the limitations of the respective independent claims, are also not identically taught or suggested. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of dependent claims 14-15, 17-18, 34-35, and 37-38 so that these claims may issue in a timely manner.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the Applicants submit that claims 14-15, 17-18, 34-35, and 37-38 are not unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Ueno in view of Urisaka, and that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are thus improper. The Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 14-15, 17-18, 34-35, and 37-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 16 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ueno in view of Urisaka, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,230,319 to Britt Jr. et al. (hereafter Britt). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Applicant maintains that the Examiner has failed to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). As discussed above, for a valid *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the prior art references when combined must teach or suggest all the claim limitations." The initial burden is on the Examiner to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of dependent claims 16 and 36, for at least the reasons that these claims are directly or indirectly dependent from respective independent claims whose limitations are not identically taught or suggested, the limitations of these dependent claims, when viewed through or in combination with the limitations of the respective independent claims, are also not identically taught or suggested. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of dependent claims 16 and 36 so that these claims may issue in a timely manner.

Also with regard to the rejection of claims 16 and 36, the Examiner states that "[t]herefore, it would have been obvious to one in the ordinary skill in the art to have been motivated to configure the obvious combination . . . in order to update the camera device with new features" Applicants respectfully submit that a *general restatement of the advantages disclosed by the Applicants* deriving from implementation of the present invention cannot act as the required teaching to combine cited references for a proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Courts have repeatedly held that "it is impermissible . . . simply to engage in *hindsight reconstruction* of the claimed invention, using the Applicants' structure as a

template and selecting elements from references to fill in the gaps.” In re Gorman, 18 USPQ 1885, 1888 (CAFC 1991).

For at least the foregoing reasons, the Applicants submit that claims 16 and 36 are not unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the cited references, and that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are thus improper. The Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 16 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Summary

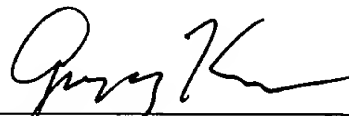
Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments and remarks overcome the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103. Because the cited references, or the Examiner's citations thereto, do not teach or suggest the claimed invention, and in light of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited prior art, Applicants therefore submit that the claimed invention is patentable over the cited art, and respectfully request the Examiner to allow claims 1-4, 6-18, 20-24, 26-38, and 40-43, so that the present Application may issue in a timely manner. If there are any questions concerning this amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

9/9/04

By: _____



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